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SQUARE.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

To one and all of our readers, a Merry

Christmas! This day should be the most

joyous one in the whole year. Theoretic-

ally, it is the gala day of jollity, good-fel-

lowship and feasting. Nothing should be

admitted on it that mars this spirit of con-

tentment and merrymaking.

Not the least joyous souls to-day will be

the boys and girls at THE EVENING WORLD'S

Christmas Trees. The young folks come in

for the lion's share of fun. This is right.

The elders owned the day when they were

in the riotous hilarity of their youth, and

should now be philosophically content to

get such happiness as comes from sym-

pathetic enjoyment of the juniors' fun.

One pleasant feature of Christmas is the

great increase in the number of dinners

given on this day. It really should be a

family party which gathers around the

mahogany for a Yule dinner. But there

are scores of families and individuals in

New York who are not in a position to

have a family dinner. To take the Christ-

mas meal in a restaurant or hotel is to en-

joy a meagre Christmas feast, no matter

how good the viands may be. Companion-

ship and sympathetic association is what

gives the Christmas party most, and is the

best of all.

Those, then, who can summon friends

who are thus circumstanced to an enjoy-

ment of a family meal are doing a grace-

ful thing and one well fitting the day. May

everybody have a joyous time and every

crease in the rose-leaf be lacking.

A WORD OF WARNING.

The season supplies the text for a little

homily of an admonitory character. Ill-

timed as serious thoughts and grave advice

may seem on the day when seriousness

should certainly be given a vacation for

twenty-four hours, yet the desire to have

this brightest day in the year remain a sun

of delight marred by no spots seems to

warrant one or two remarks on the manner

of its observance.

The days when Christmas was regarded

by some as almost akin to an orgy of

Bacchus are happily passed. The feast is

generally observed and has its own cere-

monial rites, which are duly performed with

great spontaneity.

Good nature and happiness are wont to

loosen the heart-strings on this day, and so

it has naturally come to pass that at Christ-

mas subordinates in every class are the

recipients of some slight offerings. So long

as these are made through sheer generosity

nothing could be better. But it is to be

fearful that a class of spoilers who regard

the "Christmas gift" as an indispensable

claim have sprung into existence. This is

wrong.

So, too, is that spirit which leads boys

to give SMITH something because Jones

apprehends that SMITH will give him some-

thing. This coercive suasion knocks all the

flavor out of the Christmas offering.

If these two growing evils are not arrested

before a greater desecration, Christmas

Day will soon lapse into grateful desuetude,

and none may wonder.

APPEAL.

One thing which goes far to atone for

the protection of foot passengers should have been taken. If the railway company has failed in this regard, it should be called strictly to account.

The "original package" has invaded

Philadelphia. The package in question

among the Quakers, however, contained

not the liquid form of anti-Prohibition

which figured in the Maine and Iowa

cases, but the greasy compound known as

oleomargarine, and, in this instance, made

in Chicago. It was found by the Court

that the Pennsylvania law does not

regulate, but prohibits the sale of oleo-

margarine. But the act of Congress has

made the product merchantable and regu-

lated its sale. Pennsylvania's prohibitive

law is, therefore, of no effect, and the

Quakers can't tell on which side their bread

is oleomargarine.

A guard on a Third Avenue elevated train

created a small panic and brought peril

upon his passengers by his unnecessary

unction in hurrying "all out" at a mid-

way station on the road. There was no

serious trouble, and no real cause for

alarm existed; but there are plenty of

people who mentally attach a great

deal of risk to Elevated Railway travel at

any time, and such as these are easily

startled by things which are a bit out of

the ordinary. Guards should bear these people

in mind. They are a part of the big re-

sponsibility placed upon the men who run

the trains.

After Mr. ALDRICH had sprung his pro-

posed gag rule upon the Senate, he went

home for the holidays. Perhaps he counted

upon the "good will towards men" of the

season to secure him during his absence

from the consequences of fattening a

rule so utterly at variance with the

dignity and practices of the

upper house of Congress. If so, he counted

not yet absolutely before the Senate, being

only in the committee stage. Mr. MONROE,

of Alabama, has given a sharp reminder

that free speech is not to be given with-

out a struggle in the Chamber.

Gothalites have reason to be grateful to

the weather clerk for the job lot of that

article which he has bestowed upon them

for the Yule-tide. No better days for

Christmas shopping or merry-making could

have been devised. It is a happy medium

between a fierce old Winter-time and a

"green Christmas," whose too tepid meek-

ness is said to fatten the churchyards.

What clear, cool, crisp days they have

been!

On this day the happy citizen feels good

enough to wish a merry Christmas to HANS

BEATTIE and ROBERT PORTER. This

"without prejudice." It is an effervescence

of the day of joy, and is only a truce to

well-merited hostilities. But Christmas

Day should know no enemies. Not one.

May everybody to-day have a full

stomach, but avoid every other way of

getting "full." Only enough egg-nog to

beget a Dickens-like appreciation of the

occasion. "Let us eat, drink and be

merry," with a pinch of sobriety, "because

to-morrow we" do not "die."

Even the sparrows in the Parks have a

sort of "merry Christmas" perkiness,

which seems begotten of the hour. If you

doubt this, look at 'em!

How the New York newsboy must love

Santa Claus and his day! With that and

"de fourt" of July, "his day is redeemed

for him.

The December Grand Jury has declared

in favor of matrons at the police stations.

So has the best public sentiment.

If Congress is to turn over a new leaf for

the New Year the Force Bill and Senate gag

rule should go on the turned-down side.

SPOTLIGHTS.

Sometimes in the dreary West a man is brought

to a halt and then brought to a halt. The West

is nothing if not progressive.

Some of the choruses keep on embracing "the

profession" even after they have been on the stage

some time.

Many a poor family would be glad to find even

"a little withered flower" in the pantry.

"I always feel as if I were in a crack every

thing I come here," said a disappointed in-

stant when he came here, and "I don't like

to be in a crack every time I come here."

"They have such wonderful customers."

Jay Gould has published the great U. S.

Stock "list" at New York. It is the

list of all the stocks that are to be sold.

When a husband sees a bird trimming his wife's

bonnet he always thinks of the bird.

During a political campaign a town often suffers

from a hot journal.

Mary says that when a woman goes into a

restaurant it is the only time she is in a

restaurant. "Shall I tell you again?" said the

barber to the wife.

Too much "My" indicates that one is in the

mine.

WORLDINGS.

The Post-Standard is a short and rather

manly. He dresses like any other man in

the street, but he is a great deal more

than a man in the street. He is a man in

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than a man in the street. He is a man in

was enthusiastically received. The

scene from "The School for Scandal,"

Miss Morris, a little over six years of age,

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